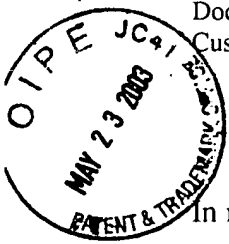


3679



Docket No.: 87335.3461
Customer No. 30734

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
David ENGEL

Serial No. 10/084,183

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: RETAINING RING APPARATUS AND METHOD

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: K. Thompson

4/Amend A with
EP
6-23-03

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2003

GROUP 3600

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed February 24, 2003, having a three-month shortened statutory period of response set to expire May 24, 2003. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

No extension-of-time fee or other fees are believed due. However any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A retaining ring movable between an unyielded state and a yielded state, comprising:

a generally C-shaped region having an inner peripheral surface; an outer peripheral surface; a first end; and a second end,